

BEST AVAILABLE COPYAmendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A tapping tool comprising:
 - an upper body having a first end engageable by a holding structure and a second end;
 - a lower body having a first end adjacent said second end of said upper body and a second end, said lower body freely manually rotatable with respect to said upper body, manually axially displaceable away from said upper body and force biased toward said upper body to enable a user to directly manually engage said lower body and gently guide said lower body toward a bore to be tapped;
a tap chuck having a first end connected to said second end of said lower body and a second end for holding a tap, said tapping tool to enable continuous guiding of said and with manual turning advance into a bore throughout a length of threaded bore formed.
2. (currently amended) The tapping tool as recited in claim 1 wherein said upper body further comprises:
 - a tube having a first open end having a first internal threaded surface, a second open end having a second internal threaded surface;
 - a base cap having an upper projection for engagement by said

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

holding structure and a lower threaded member for engagement with said first internal threaded surface of said tube;

a fitting having an upper threaded member for engagement with said second internal threaded surface of said tube;

a spring compression member having a first end having an expanded head and a second end extending through said fitting and connected to said lower body [[housing]]; and

a spring located within said tube having a first end urged toward said expanded head and a second end urged toward said fitting.

3. (originally presented) The tapping tool as recited in claim 1 wherein said tap chuck includes an upper projection extending into said lower body and secured with a set screw extending into said lower body through a set screw threaded opening.

4. (originally presented) The tapping tool as recited in claim 1 and further comprising at least one handle attached to said lower body to facilitate manual mechanical advantage to be applied in turning said lower body.

5. (originally presented) The tapping tool as recited in claim 2 wherein said spring further comprises a plurality of

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

springs mounted co-axially.

6. (currently amended) A tapping tool comprising an upper body having a first end engageable by a holding structure and a second end; a lower body having a first end adjacent said second end of said upper body and a second end, said lower body freely manually rotatable with respect to said upper body, manually axially displaceable away from said upper body and gently force biased toward said upper body;

a socket adapter having a first end connected to said second end of said lower body and a second end for holding a tap, said force bias of said lower body enabling said lower body to lift said tap gently away from a tapped bore once said tap has completed backing out of said tapped bore.

7. (currently amended) The tapping tool as recited in claim 6 wherein said socket adapter further comprises a body having a central portion, an upper projection including a lateral flat portion for facilitating the axially and rotationally securing of said adapter by a force member, and a lower male socket projection member having a lateral round projection.

8. (originally presented) An adapter for a tapping tool

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

comprising:

a central portion, an upper projection including a lateral flat portion for facilitating the axially and rotationally securing of said adapter by a force member; and a lower male socket projection member having a lateral round projection.